RESOLUTION FOR LAWRENCE B. SCHOOK

To: Lawrence B. Schook

You have been a part of the University of Illinois since the mid-1980s when you first came to Urbana after earning your Ph.D. at Wayne State University and holding various positions in Michigan and Virginia. Then you went to Minnesota, but came back to us to take the University of Illinois by storm in the field of Genomic Biology. You were awarded the Edward William and Jane Marr Gutgsell Professorship in 2007 to reflect your outstanding work in comparative mammalian genomics and applications of technologies to create biomedical models. Your funding for sponsored research has exceeded $25 million and includes significant support from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and industry. Your publications number in the hundreds and you have mentored more than 80 students and 35 postdoctoral fellows. Your leadership of the international pig genome-sequencing project led to a physical map of the pig genome, which has had a significant impact on both agriculture and human health.

During this period you found the time to launch two startup companies, become a Fellow at the Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and serve as an advisor
to corporations, universities, non-governmental, and governmental agencies. You serve on multiple boards, both academic and industrial.

You led the effort to develop UI LABS, a first-of-its kind research and innovation accelerator that spun out of the University of Illinois. Your leadership helped bring together a consortium of more than 500 partners, companies, and supporting organizations to create the Digital Manufacturing & Design Innovation Institute, a $320 million research institute designed to transform manufacturing in the United States.

Your vision as Vice President for Research helped advance the economic development mission of the University to drive innovation, economic prosperity, and competitiveness across the State of Illinois. Your efforts to strengthen the University’s innovation pipeline through the Offices of Technology Management, IllinoisVENTURES, EnterpriseWorks, and Research Park, and through partnerships with both public and private entities has bolstered the University’s impact, shepherding the movement of ideas from the laboratory to the marketplace.

You will take advantage of your return to the faculty to continue to develop new animal models to address the unmet need in cancer research, helping to improve treatment options and the odds for cancer patient survival. We have no doubt that you will have continued success here at the University of Illinois and we look forward to your next big idea.
Those who have worked with you have been impressed by your humble demeanor, willingness to give candid criticism, boundless energy, and enthusiasm for the University of Illinois.

At this time the Board of Trustees, President Timothy Killeen, faculty members, students, and staff members extend warm wishes to you, your wife Frances, your children and grandchildren, and wish you all the best.